

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 060848

67

ORIGIN EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 /023 R

66616

DRAFTED BY: EUR/NE:CLFLOYD

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PSARROS

EUR/NE:WILLIAM A BUELLS JR

EUR: MR STABLER

S/S-O:WLUERS

----- 097126

O 270051Z MAR 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 060848

TOSEC 81

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC, SECDEF WASHDC, INFO
LONDON FROM USNATO MARCH 21:

QUOTE UNCLAS USNATO 1568

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: UK DEFENSE POLICY

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER SENT TO SECRETARY GENERAL
BY AMBASSADOR PECK (UK) CONCERNING UK DEFENSE POLICY, QUOTE
BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT

UK DEFENCE POLICY

1. I THINK IT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO YOU AND OUR COLLEAGUES
TO KNOW THE TERMS OF THE WRITTEN REPLY TO A PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION, GIVEN THIS AFTERNOON BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE. THE TEXT OF THE REPLY IS AS FOLLOWS:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 060848

QUOTE: IN THE QUENN'S SPEECH THE GOVERNMENT UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR ALLIES "A POLICY DIRECTED TO MAINTAINING A MODERN AND EFFECTIVE DEFENCE SYSTEM WHILE REDUCING ITS COST AS A PROPORTION OF OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES". TO THIS END, I HAVE INITIATED A REVIEW OF CURRENT DEFENCE COMMITMENTS AND CAPABILITIES AGAINST THE RESOURCES THAT, GIVEN THE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF THE COUNTRY, WE CAN AFFORD TO DEVOTE TO DEFENCE. NATO IS THE LINCH-PIN OF OUR SECURITY AND WILL REMAIN THE FIRST CHARGE ON THE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR DEFENCE: BUT WE CONSIDER THAT THE BURDEN WHICH WE BEAR IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON NATO INTEREST SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH THAT OF OUR MAJOR EUROPEAN ALLIES. OUTSIDE EUROPE WE SHALL EXAMINE THE CONTRIBUTION MADE IN EACH CASE BY OUR MILITARY PRESENCE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY, RECALLING THE DECISION TAKEN BY HMG IN 1968 THAT OUR FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH EAST ASIA. THERE WILL BE FULL CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES WHEREVER THEIR INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED. OUR INTENTION IS TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW LATER IN THE YEAR. UNQUOTE.

2. YOU WILL, I AM SURE, BE PLEASED TO SEE THE EMPHASIS WHICH THIS ANSWER PLACES ON NATO AND ON FULL CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WHICH PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW.

3. I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND ALSO TO THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

END TEXT.

2. AMBASSADOR PECK READ THE TEXT OF THE REPLY IN A SPECIAL DPC CONVENED SUBSEQUENT TO THE HILEX DPC THIS AFTERNOON, MARCH 21. THE STATEMENT EVOKED NO COMMENT FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER NATIONS. RUMSFELD UNQUOTE
RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SPEECHES, MILITARY PLANS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, TOSEC 81
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE060848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:CLFLOYD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740065-0755
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740311/aaaaajtq.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <03-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK DEFENSE POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, UK, NATO
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005